

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee

Meeting Minutes for June 30-July 1, 1998

Thurmont, MD

Day I

A. Introductions

present: Ralph Spagnolo (*EPA, Region III*), Lenore Vasilas (*ACE, Baltimore*), Carl Robinette (*NRCS, MD*), Al Rizzo (*U.S. FWS, Annapolis*), Harold Jones (*ACE, Norfolk*), Jeff Thompson (*MDE, Annapolis*), Ann West (*MDE intern*), MaryAnne Theising (*EPA, Region II*), Martin Rabenhorst (*University of Maryland*), Ronnie Taylor (*NRCS, NJ*), Bruce Vasilas (*University of Delaware*), Marcia Woodburn (*EPA intern*), Maxine Levin (*NRCS, MD*)

Ralph introduced the members not present, it was brought up that Spencer Roe a consultant, called Al, he could possibly be a new member.

B. Review of Agenda

decision to cut short some discussion on the web page/newsletter/MOA and move it to the second day to allow Maxine Levine to present her interactive Hydric Soils CD rom

C. Book Update

Ralph - started out with 2,000 books and now have about 700 left
- we are receiving lots of requests for the books
- the new additions to the book and the changes from the Errata sheet have been made and will be sent out to people. They will just be able to take out the old pages and put the new ones in.

Some questions discussed were: How do we keep doing the changes? Who will pay? The agencies? Is there some type of mechanism that we could set up to charge for the books?

Possibly a dedicated fund could be set up from which the money could be used by the committee, or we could just agree to pay for (it cost approximately \$5000 for a 24 page/per book correction for 2000 books) It is also possible we might be able to have Lithocraft do the selling. And if demand outstrips supply we may have to go to a larger publishing group.

If anyone needs more books Ronnie Taylor has some in New Jersey, Harold Jones in Virginia, and Ralph has some in Philly.

It also might be helpful to compile a list of Universities to try to get the book and updates into their libraries.

D. Update on the One-Day Workshops

Workshops were done in N.J., W.V., MD, PA

If anyone feels the need for anymore workshops to be done let us know (Ralph, Lenore, Jeff)

E. Slide show (Jeff and Ann)

****Jeff, Ann and Lenore did an amazing job putting together the color slides for the Hydric Soils book.****

A packet of the slide show was passed out at the meeting and if you have any **questions or comments** regarding the **graphics or colors**, please get in touch with **Jeff or Ann** as soon as possible. And please turn in any comments or questions regarding the **written content or user notes** to **Lenore** **by the end of July**.

They are also still looking for someone to narrate the CD and they would like to add into the program a clip of someone actually doing a soil profile and putting in a well.

A couple of concerns that were brought up were:

- Would there be a charge for the CD?
- Change the Mucky Modified graph from depleted to reduced
- Try to take the red out of the depleted slide
- Try to get more clarification on the definition of soil organic bodies

G. Hydric Soils Interactive CD rom (Maxine Levin)

The CD was a joint effort between the University of Minnesota and the Wetland Science Institute (I have enclosed a copy of the cover letter which was sent to Maxine with the CD in case anyone would like to look into getting their own copy)

H. Website (Ralph and Marcia)

Ralph and Marcia went through the packet and discussed the contents

Some key points brought up were:

- Making sure to get permission for all of the links we added onto the page
- Having a spot to solicit people. They could add their name if their link contains relevant information, they are doing research, or know of any research that addresses any of the issues discussed in our research or problem areas section.

The MOA and newsletter were briefly touched upon here, most of it was done on the second day. The main thoughts discussed were the different options for creating an agreement. People seemed to want to keep it less official, like an MOU. A concern was how to assure membership would continue if members left.

I. Field tour of Problem Soils led by our own Carl Robinette

Carl took us on a great tour of three different problematic sites

#1) **F1 Loamy Mucky Mineral** - in non-hydric well drained and moderately well drained soils on mountain back slopes (Cunningham Falls State Park)

#2) **TF2. Red Parent Material** - observation and evaluation of "Morphology - Hydrology of Soils in Triassic Basin" Doctoral Dissertation. (Mt. St. Mary's College)

F3. Depleted Matrix - observed in some pedons

F8. Redox depressions - observed in some pedons

#3) **TF2. Red Parent Material** - confirmed, questionable hydrology

Gray Parent Material - burnt shales, non-hydric (Richard and Franklin Stambaugh Farm, Rocky Ridge)

The sites were very helpful to see and there was some contention at the last site (but from what I gather that's pretty normal for soil scientists.)

Day II

A. Martin Rabenhorst's research

Martin discussed some of the research he is doing on the Red Parent Material. Is there something inherent in the Red material that might lead to the development of the soil horizons we see? He said that he would be willing to take a look at small samples from any special sites that you might have.

B. Establishing Reference Sites for Hydric Soil Indicators

Discussion that there are only two models set up now but there should be data available (soil morphology, hydrology, plant communities) from people setting up the HGM information.

C. Problem Soils (Carl recaps from yesterday's sites)

How could we change the description's to meet the concerns seen through the problem sites yesterday?

#1) **F1**. It appears that it might be good enough to change only the user notes

#2) **TF2**. What do we do with the Red parent material? Best course of action looks to be to express that we have a problem with this indicator and urge to not accept it as official. Carl will also be writing up a page on the problem to present to the technical committee.

Placing wells out to monitor sites was also mentioned and would be thought about by the members. MaryAnne said it would be possible to set up some sites out in Stanton Island to monitor.

Concerns about a **yellow material** were also expressed at this time and Martin Rabenhorst said he would be willing to take a look at any small samples members might have of this.

D. Ectomycorrhizal Fungi (ECM) (Bruce Vasilas)

Theory: ECM will not form in saturated soils

Question: Can ECM's be used to indicate a lack of wetland hydrology?

Premise: If ECM mantles are found with hydric soil indicators possibly the wetland hydrology is no longer present or it is a historic or relic hydric soil

Bruce went on to explain that his wells had been put in and that they would be recording data on soil characteristics, plant community, and throughout the year on hydrology (water table depth, redox potential).

E. MOA

Everybody agreed that it would be nice to have something to present to the National Technical Committee, but possibly not as official as an MOA, maybe an MOU. The less official agreement could be a 1-2 page document describing the goals and purpose of the committee, the general membership (agencies, and anyone wanting to sign in good faith) and meeting schedules. Meeting times were generally agreed to be one two-day meeting every six months and ad hoc meetings when necessary. It was also offered that Lenore, Ralph, and Al might work on the Introduction and background section.

F. End Meeting

Lenore offered to bring up the Hydric Soil Committee at the Northeast National Cooperative Soil Survey meeting at the end of July and see if anyone would like to sign up.

It was also mentioned that Lee Daniels might be a good person to approach for joining the committee.

Marcia would send out reminders for people to send any sample MOAs, newsletter

articles (agency blurb with possibly a longer article), photos (for the newsletter and/or web page) any web page comments, links, or research paragraphs describing current or needed research.

Next meeting will be sometime during **January** (13-14th?) in **Chestertown?**